

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Withdrawn) A method for making a place mat for displaying at least one substantially planar object comprising the steps of:

 providing a substantially continuous base sheet having a first surface and a second surface, at least one of said surfaces having an adhesive layer applied thereto;

 selecting the planar object for arrangement on said adhesive layer of said base sheet;

 positioning the planar object on said adhesive layer of said base sheet;

 providing at least one transparent cover sheet; and

 laying said transparent cover sheet over said continuous base sheet thereby sealably securing said planar objects between said base sheet and said transparent cover sheet.

10. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 10, wherein said planar objects are arranged on said base sheet so that at least a 2 inch border is defined between said planar objects and a peripheral edge of said base sheet.

11. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 10, wherein at least one of said planar objects is a photograph.

12. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 10, wherein said planar objects are selected and arranged on said adhesive layer to teach a child an educational lesson.

13. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 10, wherein said transparent cover sheet thickness is between approximately 0.5 mm and approximately 2 mm.

14. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 10, wherein said continuous base sheet thickness is between approximately 1 mm and approximately 5 mm.

15. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 10, wherein said base sheet is formed of a plastic material.

16. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 10, wherein said transparent sheet is formed of a plastic material.

17. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of: providing a paper layer attached to said adhesive layer of said base sheet and removing said paper layer from said adhesive layer of said base sheet before said positioning the planar objects on said adhesive layer of said base sheet.

18. (Withdrawn) A stand alone place mat for display of at least one substantially planar object, said place mat having a first position and a second position, comprising:

a substantially continuous base sheet having a first surface, a second surface, a top edge, a bottom edge opposed to said top edge, and opposed side edges, at least one of said surfaces having an adhesive layer applied thereto; and

a transparent cover sheet having a top edge, a bottom edge opposed to said top edge, and opposed side edges, wherein said top edge of said cover sheet is hingedly coupled to said top edge of said base sheet such that when said place mat is in its first position, said bottom edge of said cover sheet is spaced apart from said bottom edge of said base sheet such that the planar object is able to be positioned and retained on said adhesive layer of said base sheet, and such that when said place mat is in its second position, said bottom edge of said cover sheet is flush with said bottom edge of said base sheet such that the planar object is sealably retained between said base sheet and said cover sheet.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for protecting a table top during meals, comprising the steps of:

providing a substantially continuous base sheet having a first surface and a second surface, at least one of said surfaces having an adhesive layer applied thereto;

selecting the planar object for arrangement on said adhesive layer of said base sheet;

positioning the planar object on said adhesive layer of said base sheet;

providing at least one transparent cover sheet;

laying said transparent cover sheet over said continuous base sheet to thereby sealably secure said planar objects between said base sheet and said transparent cover sheet in a fluid-tight manner and to thereby form a place mat;

placing the place mat on a surface of a table; and

placing dishes and the like on the place mat.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19 20, wherein said planar objects are selected and arranged on said adhesive layer to teach a child an educational lesson.